

in Britain (see Beirne, *British Pyralid and Plume Moths* (1954) p. 88). Considerable interest was therefore generated when on the 5th May, 1956 a strong colony was discovered at Pitsea in Essex (see Huggins (1956), *Entomologist*, **89**: 152-4), although within a short time the species had again died out from there. Shortly afterwards however the first Kentish specimen was taken by J. M. Chalmers-Hunt on the 21st June, 1956 (*Ent. Rec.* (1956), **68**: 246). Subsequent to that record only random examples were recorded until Steven Whitebread's note referring to a number of specimens taken around his home in North Kent (*Ent. Rec.* (1975), **87**: 190). He made the suggestion that the species could possibly be "breeding on the North Kent coast on the marshes or saltmarshes".

This year, although I have done little collecting, I have succeeded in taking *oblitella* in a number of different localities. Firstly on the B.E.N.H.S. meeting at Eastbourne, 15th-18th July, 1976, I caught several specimens not only on the Crumbles at Langney Point but also on Beachy Head itself. Then on the 28th July I was to see the species at light on Portland.

However, the biggest surprise came on the 22nd July whilst recording near the Shellness Nature Reserve on the Isle of Sheppey, Kent. On the shingle a few specimens of *oblitella* were noted, but on inspecting an actinic trap placed on the edge of the salt-marsh only a couple of hundred yards away the species was abundant, easily the commonest moth present. The trap had been placed among *Halimione portulacoides*, whilst a few yards away there were large stands of *Cardaria draba*, the Hoary Cress or Thanet Weed.

I have subsequently heard that the species has been taken in some numbers throughout the South, South West and the Home Counties. It would be interesting to hear of any more records of this moth so that its apparent population explosion may be monitored. — Dr. I. A. WATKINSON, 166 Sterling Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

A FURTHER NOTE ON *EPIBLEMA GRANDAEVANA* (L. & Z.). — The recent notes in *Ent. Rec.*, Vol. 88, No. 5 and Vol. 88, Nos. 7 and 8, concerning this insect make it essential that I should put the following facts on record. I really ought to have done this some time ago.

There are eight specimens in my collection, seven of which came to me from the late Professor J. W. Heslop Harrison. His moths are labelled as follows: two specimens, "Redcar 5.vii.09"; one specimen, "Redcar 20.vii.04"; one specimen, "Redcar 11.vii.05"; one specimen, "Redcar 1906"; one specimen, "J. A. Clark's Sale, Feb. 1910"; one specimen, labelled but inscription so faded as to be now indecipherable.

Of these, the majority were caught at Redcar which is on the Yorkshire side of Teesmouth, in another habitat similar to the sandhills south of Hartlepool. Thus in fact it has been taken outside of Durham, albeit by only a few miles.

The eighth specimen in my collection was captured by myself on 10.vii.1948 at Castle Eden Denemouth. I remember the occasion well, because the late Professor Harrison had

urged me to try to find the moth again when I started collecting once more after the war. I had previously tried the whole of the coastline from Hartlepool northwards during the two previous seasons without any luck. The moth was disturbed (with several other species) from the vegetation on the Denemouth slopes where coltsfoot is abundant. I had not seen it since then (chiefly because I had not specially looked for it), until one appeared in a larger collection of micros from Castle Eden Dene brought to me for checking by David Shepherd. His specimen was captured in the same place as mine. Now Castle Eden Denemouth is several miles north of the Hartlepool sandhills where the old collectors used to take it. The fact that it was taken there in 1948 and again in 1972, indicates that it is certainly resident there and has probably survived without interruption since the beginning of the century. Indeed, it appears to be spreading northwards. — T. C. DUNN, The Poplars, Chester-le-Street, Durham.

THREE INTERESTING MOTH RECORDS FROM PERTHSHIRE. — On the afternoon of 17th July my daughter Kathryn, aged 9, brought me an almost perfect specimen of the Hummingbird Hawkmoth (*Macroglossum stellatarum* L.) which she had found in her bedroom.

On the 29th July, I myself collected a specimen of the Old Lady moth (*Mormo maura* L.) from a hut at the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory, Pitlochry. The moth was in very good condition, and to repeat Mr. Wormell's comment in the September *Record*, "this would seem to be well north of its usual range of distribution in Britain".

The third record is of two Orange Sallow moths (*Tiliacea citrigo* L.) taken at a lighted window at my house in Pitlochry on 1st September. I do not know the present range of this species, but Meyrick (1928), presumably quoting South, states that in Scotland it has been recorded from Roxburgh and the Hebrides. — B. MORRISON, 7 Dixon Terrace, Pitlochry, Perthshire.

MIGRANTS ON THE LIZARD LATE AUGUST 1976. — The Lizard, the most southerly point of the British Isles, has always been a notable landfall for migrant lepidoptera and 1976 was no exception. In fact our visit coincided with one of the most remarkable immigrations for many years. As in June 1974, Mr. J. L. Messenger and myself had facilities for running our m.v. trap at the Mullion Cove Hotel. Our first night, 26th August, was quite phenomenal with near a thousand visitors including five *Herse convolvuli* of which we heard later, over another hundred were recorded by other collectors working on the Peninsula during this period up to the end of the month. Another feature was the abundance of *Leucania vitellina* Hübn. in mostly pale cream form. *Plusia gamma* L. was in hundreds with a good many *Agrotis ypsilon* Hufn. There was a single *Leucania unipuncta* Haworth together with some 40 other species, including the brown form of *Lasiocampa trifolii* D. & S. The subsequent week up to the end of the month did not